

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of March 11, 2020**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Winker on March 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in Meeting Room 115, located in the Columbia County Administration Building, located at 112 E. Edgewater Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Certification of Public Notice: Kimberly A. Nass certified that the notice of this meeting complies with all applicable requirements of Wisconsin's open meetings law.

Roll call was taken.

Present: James E. Foley and Bob Koch, Columbia County; Russell Kottke, Dodge County; Joseph Koch, Fond du Lac County; Thomas E. Winker and Donald Dohrwardt, Ozaukee County; Roger TeStroete, Sheboygan County; Jeff Schleif and Robert Hartwig, Washington County; and, Joel Rasmussen, Winnebago County.

Excused: Jeffrey Caine, Dodge County; Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Dennis Mulder and Vicki Bernhagen, Green Lake County; Milwaukee County; Jim Glavan, Sheboygan County; and, Larry Smith, Winnebago County.

Others Present: Ken Lucht, WSOR; Lisa Stern and Edward Singer, WisDOT; Kimberly A. Nass, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and, Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2019: Motion by TeStroete/Schleif to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Russell Kottke reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of October 31, 2019, was \$1,002.02. Deposits were \$226,000.55. Expenditures were \$225,000. There were no Transfers. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of February 29, 2020, is \$1,000.55. Motion by Foley/Rasmussen to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action on WisDOT's sale of State Railroad Property at 241 S. Walker Street, Waupun, Wisconsin: The Consortium considered and discussed WisDOT's sale of state railroad property at 241 S. Walker Street, Waupun, Wisconsin. Ed Singer made a PowerPoint presentation to the Consortium regarding the potential sale of state railroad land that encroaches the railroad right-of-way, to the homeowners who live at 241 S. Walker Street, Waupun, Wisconsin. WisDOT stated that moving the garage would be cost prohibitive to the property owner and would be willing to consider selling that part of the state land to the homeowners, or would be willing to enter into an Offer to Use agreement, essentially leasing the property. Pursuant to the Grant Agreement, WisDOT can on its own initiative, sell property beyond 33 feet from center of track; however, WisDOT is required to consult with the commission and the rail operator and offer the property to them first. A Motion was made by Kottke/Schleif that the EWCRC decline the purchase of the state railroad property, located at 241 S. Walker Street, Waupun, Wisconsin, for WisDOT. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 1 nay. A Motion was made by TeStroete/Dohrwardt that WisDOT or WSOR should contact all of the counties and municipalities and remind them of the right-of-way setbacks, either by letter or by email. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action regarding an Offer to Use Lease between WisDOT and the Mayville Fire Department: The Consortium considered and discussed the Offer to Use Lease between WisDOT and the Mayville Fire Department. The Mayville Fire Department located on Horicon Street, illegally built a parking lot right up to a railroad bed. Ed Singer provided pictures of the parking lot. Motion by Dohwardt/Foley to scale back the parking lot to 33 feet of right-of-way and coordinate with WSOR to have Mayville install a pedestrian path and investigate the possible encroachment of a garage in the back of the lot. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Report of WisDOT, Railroads and Harbors: Lisa Stern report that Ed Singer will be retiring at the end of June, 2020. WisDOT is working with WSOR on its grant projects throughout the system. In November of 2019, Josh Kotter replaced Steven Samms as the new railroad facility engineer. WisDOT recently hired a new at grade crossing safety engineer. WisDOT is reverting back to the 2018 Freight Rail Preservation Program guidelines.

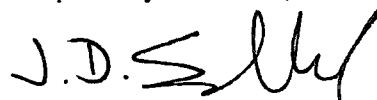
Report of WSOR: Ken Lucht reported the following: WSOR is working with WisDOT on a continuous welded rail rehabilitation project on the Oshkosh Subdivision, from Fisk to Oshkosh, which is a Phase 3 rehabilitation project. WSOR is constructing four crossings and installing four switches between Fisk and Oshkosh. The rail has been delivered and will be installed in August or September of 2020. WSOR invited members of the consortium to visit one of its worksites and observe how WSOR installs, takes out the old rail, and installs the new rail. WSOR has been performing a lot of maintenance work on the Cambria Subdivision, between Brandon and Cambria. WSOR replaced 1,300 ties last year. In 2020, WSOR is going to replace 2,500 ties on the last four miles into Cambria, WSOR will be replacing 3,200 ties between Fairwater and Brandon, and between Horicon and Slinger, WSOR will be installing 11,000 ties. WSOR will be applying weed control on its entire network starting in May of 2020. WSOR will start spraying the brush in August or September of 2020. In 2020, WSOR will be rehabilitating four at grade crossings. One at CTH A in Beaver Dam, one at CTH Highway A in Fredonia, as well as one at Meadow Lark Street, and one at STH 44 in Brandon. At the next meeting of the EWCRC, Ken will provide the production totals for 2019 and will also provide the WSOR 2020 work plan. Ken stated that he will mail out the 2020 calendars. Ken stated that he would like to set up a date and time for a rail inspection tour between Horicon and Cambria.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (May 13, 2020): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on May 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Fond du Lac County will host the meeting.

Motion by Schleif/Hartwig to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph W. Koch, Secretary

JEFF D. SCHLEIF

Disclaimer: These are draft minutes. These draft minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next meeting of the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium.